The Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy: A New Paradigm in Transformational Energy Research

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Evolution of ARPA-E



Mission

To enhance the economic and energy security of the U.S.

To ensure U.S. technological lead in developing and deploying advanced energy technologies

Advanced Transformative Technologies



Creating New Learning Curves



10 Technology Areas within First Open FOA



11 Focused Programs



Stationary Power





Biofuels: A tough nut to crack



7

Current pathways for liquid fuels from solar energy have low energy efficiency



Energy loss

- 513 Outside photosynthetically active spectrum
 - 49 Reflected and transmitted
 - 66 Photochemical inefficiency
 - 72 Thermodynamic limit
- 175 Carbohydrate Biosynthesis
 - 0 Photorespiration
- 25 Respiration

Zhu et al. *Current Opinion in Biotechnology* (2008) 19:153-159

Scalable production of macroalgae as a feedstock for isobutanol









Diminishing biomass pre-treatment costs through plant biotechnology



- 1. Agrivida^M crops produce dormant enzymes within the plant.
- 2. The dormant enzymes are activated after harvest.
- 3. The activated enzymes degrade the cell wall.

<u>Agrivida</u>

Developing high biomass dedicated energy crops with increased nitrogen use efficiency

4 HIGH BIOMASS NUE TRAITS



DEDICATED ENERGY CROPS



FIELD TRIALS IN 4 STATES



Economically-viable algae systems technologies suitable for deployment



Biocatalyst development







ARPA-E seeks new biofuels programs to address current biofuel production inefficiencies



Chemolithoautotrophs are at the core of a efficient and flexible Electrofuels platform



Source: Conrado, R.J., Haynes, C.A., Haendler, B.E., Toone, E.J., "Electrofuels: A New Paradigm for Renewable Fuels" 2011, Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts (in press) (Lee, J., ed.): Springer, U.S.



H₂ consuming bacteria





Autotrophic production

Free fatty acid extraction

Final fuel upgrading

Electrochemically produced formate



Direct current/biocathodes



Geobacter metallireducens can form conductive biofilms on the surface of electrodes





Acetogenes have demonstrated the ability to produce acetate directly from electrons with high coulombic efficiency

Programs focus on white spaces in biofuel production





Developing Dedicated Biofuel Crops





Yield: 160 GJ/Ha-year (2x corn) Cost: < \$3 GGE

PE

Plants being developed under PETRO





DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER





(Camelina)











(tobacco→Giant cane)

PE

Pine trees engineered to produce fuel molecules in addition to providing pulp for paper

Increase production, fuel quality & storage capacity for pine terpenes





Higher yield Camelina with improved energy & CO₂ capture







Higher light capturing efficiency Algae traits for improved fixation Higher yields of seed oils















Sorghum engineered to produce fuel



Sweet Sorghum



arp







@Allylix

Sorghum Oberholtzer's

(11b. Soz.) (st. Wt. 21cz.) (505 Grams)





...engineered...

X

Future FOAs



- How else can biology be used to transform the energy landscape?
- Just closed a round of "intent" for an open solicitation
- RFI open for scaling electro/chemolithoautotrophic biofuels